

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 VO-03 DHA-02 L-03 EURE-00 CIAE-00

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O 251550Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5614

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 6070

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, RO (RAUTA, ECATERINA)

SUBJECT: RAUTA CASE

REFS: A. BUCHAREST 6034

B. STATE 267132

C. BUCHAREST 5829

1. DURING NOVEMBER 24 DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER (SEE REFTEL A), HE REQUESTED EMBASSY WITHDRAW ITS NOTE OF NOVEMBER 13, 1975 REQUESTING CLARIFICATION ON RAUTA CASE. (COPY OF NOTE POUCHED TO EUR/EE NOV 14).

2. STATING HE WISHED HIS REMARKS TO BE OFF THE RECORD AND REQUESTING EMBOFF NOT TO TAKE NOTES, PACOSTE SAID HE REGARDED NOTE AN "ULTIMATUM" BECAUSE IT REQUIRED REPLY WITHIN TEN DAYS. CHARGE RESPONDED NOTE WAS NOT AN ULTIMATUM AND SHOULD NOT BE SO CONSTRUED. THE PURPOSE OF NOTE WAS TO CLARIFY STATEMENTS MADE TO CONGRESSMAN GREEN BY COUNSELOR IONITA DURING MEETING ON OCT 20, 1975. IONITA HAD STATED IN THAT CONVERSATION THAT RELATIVES OF CONDEMNED CRIMINALS COULD NOT EMIGRATE FROM ROMANIA. CHARGE SAID EMBASSY HAD REQUESTED RPT REQUESTED RESPONSE WITHIN TEN DAYS SOLELY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE TIMELY RESPONSE TO AN IMPORTANT CONGRESSMAN. STATED OUR RELATIONS WERE TOO GOOD FOR EITHER SIDE TO BE DEALING IN ULTIMATUMS AND REQUESTED DEPUTY MINISTER
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PROMPTLY TO WITHDRAW HIS CHARACTERIZATION.

3. CHARGE THEN STATED WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW NOTE IF:

A.) ASSURANCES WERE RECEIVED THAT MRS. RAUTA OR ANY OTHER ROMANIAN CITIZEN COULD HAVE FREE AND UNFETTERED ACCESS TO EMBASSY WHENEVER REQUIRED TO DISCUSS CONSULAR BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH 1972 CONSULAR CONVENTION. B). THAT LAW MENTIONED IN REFTEL B BE CLARIFIED; C). PACOSTE AGREED NOT TO CHARACTERIZE NOTE AS AN "ULTIMATUM".

4. PACOSTE THEN ASKED CHARGE IF HE WERE

IN GOR'S POSITION WHAT WOULD HE DO IN RESPECT TO RAUTA CASE. CHARGE ANSWERED HE DISLIKED RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS IN THE ABSTRACT, AND PARTICULARLY BECAUSE USG HAD NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN CASE SUCH AS THIS. THAT SAID, CHARGE STATED HE APPRECIATED SERIOUSNESS OF MR. RAUTA'S CRIME. ANY GOVERNMENT WOULD. NONETHELESS HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND GOR RATIONALE THAT MRS. RAUTA AND HER SON SHOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTS COMMITTED BY HER HUSBAND, APPARENTLY WITHOUT HER KNOWLEDGE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PACOSTE WOULD UNDERSTAND HER CASE HAD AROUSED GREAT DEAL OF SYMPATHY AMONG PUBLIC FIGURES AND CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES IN US.

5. PACOSTE RESPONDED THAT IT WAS NOT GOR'S INTENT TO PREVENT ITS CITIZENS FROM HAVING ACCESS TO US EMBASSY. GOR WOULD FULLY ADHERE TO COMMITMENTS REQUIRED IN CONSULAR CONVENTION. PACOSTE ALSO SAID HE WITHDREW HIS CHARGE THAT NOTE WAS "ULTIMATUM" AND IT WAS JOINTLY AGREED NOTE NEVER EXISTED. FYI: AS WE WERE LEAVING MFA, MITRAN INFORMED CHARGE THAT NO ROMANIAN LAW EXISTED WHICH PREVENTED RELATIVES OF CONDEMNED PERSONS FROM EMIGRATING ABROAD.

6. PACOSTE CONTINUED THAT GOR DID NOT CONSIDER RAUTA CASE "NORMAL". IT WAS A CASE BASED ON EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES; IF THERE WERE SPECIAL REASONS WHY USG WANTED HER DEPARTURE APPROVED, THESE SHOULD BE INDICATED TO GOR. OTHERWISE, HE SAID, GOR WISHED TO DROP MATTER ONCE AND FOR ALL.

7. CHARGE REPLIED THAT INTEREST IN CASE WAS SOLELY HUMANITARIAN. HE SAID HE ACCEPTED FACT THERE ARE UNUSUAL CIRCUM-
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STANCES RELATING TO CASE AND APPRECIATED PACOSTE'S FRANKNESS IN DESCRIBING GOR POSITION. REITERATED GROWING CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC INTEREST IN THIS CASE, ALL OF WHICH HUMANITARIAN IN NATURE. PACOSTE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS, BUT IF THERE WERE NO "SPECIAL REASONS" WHY USG WANTED MATTER SETTLED, GOR WOULD CLOSE CASE. CHARGE PROMISED REPORT CONVERSATION TO DEPT.

8. COMMENT: MESSAGE FROM PACOSTE IS CLEAR. IF WE HAVE MORE THAN NORMAL INTEREST IN SOLUTION TO RAUTA CASE, WE NEED TO BE SPECIFIC IN MAKING THIS KNOWN TO GOR. AND EVEN IF WE DO, FROM HERE WE ARE DUBIOUS ABOUT ANY NEAR TERM POSITIVE SOLUTION. IT'S SIMPLY A TERRIBLY TOUGH CASE FOR THE ROMANIANS TO HANDLE.

9. "ULTIMATUM" PLOY IN OUR JUDGMENT IS SMOKE SCREEN FOR GOR UNHAPPINESS OVER HAVING IN FILES USG NOTE REQUESTING CLARIFICATION WHETHER IT TRUE GOR CITIZEN IS SUBJECT TO ARREST IF SHE ATTEMPTS CONTACT EMBASSY. WE WROTE NOTE IN FULL RECOGNITION OF POTENTIAL NEGATIVE GOR REACTION, BUT IN THE EVENT BELIEVE WE ACCOMPLISHED EXACTLY WHAT WE SET OUT TO WITH MINIMUM OF BRUISES TO EITHER SIDE.
VIETS

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